

ALSAGER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

C/4/1.

MEDICAL OFFICERS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1942.

To the Chairman and Members of the Alsager Urban District Council,
Mr. Chairman and Councillors.

I beg to present my Annual Report for 1942.

A. STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

AREA	2241 Acres.
Registrar General's estimate of the resident population in 1942	The Ministry of Health do not wish these figures to be inserted.
Estimated Population in 1942 from Food Office Records.	
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1942) according to the Rate Books.	
Rateable Value.	
Sum represented by a penny rate	

VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	Total	M	F
Live Births.	38	18	20
Legitimate	37	17	20
Illegitimate	1	1	0
Birth Rate	7.30	per 1,000 inhabitants.	
Still Births	None		

DEATHS	TOTAL	M.	F.
	30	18	12

Death Rate 5.76 per 1,000 inhabitants.

Deaths from puerperal sepsis	0
Other puerperal causes,	0
Death of infants under 1 year	1
Deaths from Measles or Whooping Cough or Infantile Diarrhoea (under two years)	0

AGES AT DEATH.

Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	1
1 - 10	...	...	...	...	...	1
10 - 20	...	...	...	...	...	0
20 - 30	...	...	...	...	...	1
30 - 40	...	...	...	...	...	3
40 - 50	...	...	...	...	...	0
50 - 60	...	...	...	...	...	1
60 - 70	...	...	...	...	...	5
70 - 80	...	...	...	...	...	12
Over 80	...	...	...	...	...	5
Over 90	...	...	...	...	...	1

Total 30

There were 5 Inquests held in the District during the year.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

Senile Decay	2
Diseases of the Heart	10
Arteris Sclerosis	5
Accident,	1
War operations,	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage	5
Cancer	3
Other Diseases	5
	<u>30</u>

B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

1. Public Health Officers of the Authority.

- (1) Medical Officer of Health.
- (2) Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector (combined offices)

These two have held office for 21 years and 35 years respectively.

The Medical Officer of Health is part-time, and the Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector is a full-time official.

There is a temporary part-time District Medical Officer (Public Assistance).

There is no Public Vaccinator resident in the area.

2. (a) Laboratory Facilities.

The usual arrangements are in force. The Pathological Department of the Royal Infirmary, Chester is available for all forms of bacteriological examination.

The undermentioned specimens of sputum were examined there from the District during the year, with the results shown:-

Positive	Negative	Total.
(Tbc) 1	(Tbc) 30	31

(b) Ambulance Facilities.

There is no Ambulance kept in the District except that of the Civil Defence Services. A motor Ambulance can be obtained without delay from the neighbouring authorities, such as the Urban District of Kidsgrove, the Borough of Crewe or Newcastle or the City of Stoke-on-Trent.

(c) Nursing in the Home.

There has been no change in the arrangements in the area for general nursing. The salary of the part-time District Nurse is maintained by Public subscriptions to the Alsager Sick Nursing Fund, which is affiliated with the County Association and is administered by a Committee of your Council.

There are no arrangements for nursing infectious diseases and none are required as the patients are removed to Congleton Isolation Hospital, unless private isolation can be provided. No special arrangement is made for Whooping Cough and Measles which have to be looked after at home, except in complicated cases of whooping cough which may be admitted to the West Heath Sanatorium.

(d) Clinic and Treatment Centres. These are as mentioned in previous reports. A school clinic and a treatment centre for Scabies are about to be provided at the Lawton Building Estate.

The Infant Welfare Centre, held at Alsager every two weeks has been doing useful work and attendance has been good during 1942.

(e) Hospitals.

Subsidised by the Sanitary Authority or by the County Council.

- (1) Fever. The West Heath Sanatorium, near Congleton. Here accommodation for infectious diseases has been sufficient and arrangements quite satisfactory.
- (2) Small-Pox. There is a building for the accommodation of this at Arclid (not open at present)
- (3) Tuberculosis. (1) The Cheshire Joint Sanatorium near Market Drayton.
(2) The Convalescent Colony at Wrenbury Hall.
- (4) Orthopaedic. An orthopaedic clinic is held at Crewe every Monday to deal with these cases, at which an orthopaedic specialist attends at intervals.

Hospital Treatment at the North Staffs Royal Infirmary and the Cripples Aid Society Hospital is also available.

- (5) Mental Disease. The County Mental Hospital.
- (6) There is no special Maternity Hospital for the District. Cases of puerperal Fever are received by the North Staffs Royal Infirmary and provision for specialist and Hospital Services is made for them under the County Council Scheme.

Provision may also be made by the County Council for certain maternity cases to be received into Linden Grange Maternity Hospital, Crewe.

- (7) The North Staffs Royal Infirmary provides all other forms of Hospital treatment and is subscribed to by Voluntary contributors and a general contributory scheme from residents in the District.

Midwifery Services.

A maternity nurse, appointed by the County Council provides domiciliary service in the district, under the County Council Scheme (Midwives Act 1936).

She resides within the Urban District of Alsager.

Mortuary.

The premises at the rear of Prospect House have been adopted for mortuary purposes by your Council.

Water Supply. Negotiations are in hand for the supplying of a neighbouring authority with water it being anticipated that there will be a surplus after the needs of the district have been met. The improvement in supply and pressure maintained in last years reports has been affected.

Analysis of water. An analysis of water taken on 25th/2/42 taken from the water works was commented upon by the County Analyst as follows

From No.1. Borehole.	"A sterile Water"
" No.2. Borehole.	"Water of wholesome bacteriological quality."

SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS. An additional works has been erected and is maintained by your Council this is operating satisfactorily.

The Day Green works are producing a normal effluent and the Crewe Road works is subject to constant strain owing to Trade waste deposit, corrosion of fittings etc., but remedial measures are in hand and renewals are effected by the concern involved.

REFUSE DUMPS. Semi control of tipping is carried out.

FARMS AND DAIRIES. Farmers and Dairymen are endeavouring to comply with the regulations and their premises are usually found to be clean and wholesome.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS.

(a) Total Number of inspections made	221
(b) Number of Notices served.	159

It was found that in all cases informal notice was sufficient to have the defects remedied.

Included in the above are 12 cases in which small items of foodstuffs were condemned.

D. HOUSING.

Your Council have now accepted liability for the taking over of the roads and paths and verges of the estate laid out at Longview.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Cases of overcrowding.	Nil
The total number of houses inspected for defects under the Public Health and Housing Acts	28
No. of informal notices served.	14
No. of defects remedied.	10
No. of defects carried forward.	4
No. of houses found not reasonably fit for habitation.	5
No. of houses found unfit for habitation.	0

E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Inspections have been made both of shop premises and premises where food is produced and only minor defects have ever been found and these have been remedied by informal notice.

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

This may be carried out at the Laboratory of the Royal Infirmary, Chester.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND
OTHER DISEASES.

There were 21 cases of notifiable disease (including Tuberculosis) and excluding Measles and Whooping Cough, during the year.

Scarlet Fever	10
Diphtheria	2
Erysipelas	2
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	2
Tuberculosis (Non-Pulmonary)	2
Pneumonia	3

In the cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria were removed to West Heath Sanatorium.

There were 16 cases of Measles and 14 cases of Whooping Cough, which were all treated at home.

Immunisation against Diphtheria. Your Council has adopted the provision of facilities for immunisation against Diphtheria and organisms of the Typhoid Group on the lines of Circular 2230 from the Ministry of Health.

The Scheme is entirely voluntary, the issue of the vaccine is free and the expense of administration rests with your Council.

Number of children completely immunised against diphtheria during the year 1942	32.
---	-----

Number of children who had been inoculated once but did not complete the course.	Nil.
--	------

Record cards are kept of all these cases. No child who has been immunised has contracted diphtheria.

Arrangements are being made under the Scabies Order 1941.

Arrangements have been made with the Congleton Isolation Hospital for the reception there of complicated cases of Whooping Cough.

Tuberculosis. Specimens of sputum were examined by the Public Health Department, Chester during the year, with results as follows:

Positive	Negative	Total
1	30	31

The prevalence of Cancer is below the average. There were only three deaths from it.

Disinfection of premises, which have been exposed to infection is carried out by the local authority. Bedding, clothing etc., are removed to the West Heath Sanatorium for disinfection.

A Motor ambulance is provided there for the conveyance of patients to and from the Sanatorium.

No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Blindness) Regulation 1925 or under Section 62 of the Public Health Act 1925 or Section 172 of the Public Health Act 1936.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

Henry P. Harpur, M.D.

July, 1943.

